



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Employment Commission

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### Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Was Up 0.1 Percentage Point in February to 2.9 Percent

— Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was down 3,000 jobs  
between January 2019 and February 2019—

**RICHMOND**—Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate was up 0.1 percentage point in February to 2.9 percent, but was 0.3 percentage point below last February. The labor force, which expanded for the eighth consecutive month, added 8,954 for a total of 4,354,967, a new record high. Household employment increased by 6,886 and at 4,230,408, also set a new record high. The number of unemployed increased by 2,068 to 124,559, the fourth consecutive monthly increase. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which was down 0.2 percentage point in February to 3.8 percent.

Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** nonfarm employment decreased by 3,000 jobs in February to 4,026,000. February's decline followed January's strong gain of 20,400 jobs, which was revised downward by 3,300 jobs from the initially reported gain of 23,700 jobs. In February, private sector employment decreased by 2,400 jobs to 3,302,700, while public sector payrolls decreased by 600 jobs to 723,300.

From January 2018 to February 2019, **seasonally adjusted** employment decreased in five major industry divisions, increased in four, and remained unchanged in mining at 7,900 and in finance at 207,600. The largest job loss during February occurred in the **information** sector, which decreased by 1,400 jobs to 63,900. The second largest over-the-month job loss occurred in **trade and transportation**, with a loss of 1,100 jobs to 658,300. Losses occurred in all of the trade and transportation subsectors: retail trade (-500 jobs); transportation and warehousing (-400 jobs); and wholesale trade (-200 jobs). The **private education and health services** sector experienced the third largest over-the-month drop, declining by 1,000 jobs to 542,900. In February, the loss in private education (-1,900 jobs) outweighed the gain in health

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care and social assistance (+900 jobs). Other employment losses were 600 jobs in **total government** to 723,300 and 300 jobs in **miscellaneous services** to 202,800. For total government, the losses in state (-400 jobs) and local (-300 jobs) government employment outweighed the slight gain in federal government employment (+100 jobs). The largest job gain during February occurred in the **professional and business services** sector, which added 700 jobs to 757,700. Other employment gains were 400 jobs in **manufacturing** to 245,500; 200 jobs in **construction** to 198,900; and 100 jobs in **leisure and hospitality** to 417,200.

### Nonfarm Employment in Virginia\* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			January 2019 to February 2019		February 2018 to February 2019	
	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>4,026,000</b>	<b>4,029,000</b>	<b>3,994,500</b>	<b>-3,000</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>+31,500</b>	<b>+0.8%</b>
<b>Total Private Sector</b>	<b>3,302,700</b>	<b>3,305,100</b>	<b>3,274,300</b>	<b>-2,400</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>+28,400</b>	<b>+0.9%</b>
<b>Goods-Producing</b>	<b>452,300</b>	<b>451,700</b>	<b>444,100</b>	<b>+600</b>	<b>+0.1%</b>	<b>+8,200</b>	<b>+1.8%</b>
Mining	7,900	7,900	7,900	+0	+0.0%	+0	+0.0%
Construction	198,900	198,700	198,300	+200	+0.1%	+600	+0.3%
Manufacturing	245,500	245,100	237,900	+400	+0.2%	+7,600	+3.2%
<b>Service-Providing</b>	<b>3,573,700</b>	<b>3,577,300</b>	<b>3,550,400</b>	<b>-3,600</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>+23,300</b>	<b>+0.7%</b>
<b>Private Service-Providing</b>	<b>2,850,400</b>	<b>2,853,400</b>	<b>2,830,200</b>	<b>-3,000</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>+20,200</b>	<b>+0.7%</b>
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	658,300	659,400	662,400	-1,100	-0.2%	-4,100	-0.6%
Information	63,900	65,300	68,100	-1,400	-2.1%	-4,200	-6.2%
Finance	207,600	207,600	207,400	+0	+0.0%	+200	+0.1%
Professional and Business Services	757,700	757,000	744,800	+700	+0.1%	+12,900	+1.7%
Education and Health Services	542,900	543,900	538,700	-1,000	-0.2%	+4,200	+0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	417,200	417,100	407,600	+100	+0.0%	+9,600	+2.4%
Miscellaneous Services	202,800	203,100	201,200	-300	-0.1%	+1,600	+0.8%
<b>Government</b>	<b>723,300</b>	<b>723,900</b>	<b>720,200</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>+3,100</b>	<b>+0.4%</b>
Federal Government	179,600	179,500	178,300	+100	+0.1%	+1,300	+0.7%
State Government	160,200	160,600	159,800	-400	-0.2%	+400	+0.3%
Local Government	383,500	383,800	382,100	-300	-0.1%	+1,400	+0.4%

\*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From February 2018 to February 2019, Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment was up 31,500 jobs, or 0.8 percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia has been positive for 59 consecutive months. Nationally, over-the-year growth also slowed in February to 1.7 percent from 1.9 percent in January. For Virginia, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 28,400 jobs, while employment in the public sector increased by 3,100 jobs.

Compared to a year ago, on a **seasonally adjusted** basis, eight of the eleven major industry divisions experienced employment gains, two experienced employment losses, and mining employment

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remained unchanged. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **professional and business services**, up 12,900 jobs (+1.7 percent). The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **leisure and hospitality**, up 9,600 jobs (+2.4 percent). **Manufacturing** experienced the third largest over-the-year job gain, up 7,600 jobs (+3.2 percent). Other gains were in **private education and health services**, up 4,200 jobs (+0.8 percent); **total government**, up 3,100 jobs (+0.4 percent); **miscellaneous services**, up 1,600 jobs (+0.8 percent); **construction**, up 600 jobs (+0.3 percent); and **finance**, up 200 jobs (+0.1 percent). For total government, gains occurred in all the subsectors: local (+1,400 jobs), federal (+1,300 jobs), and state (+400 jobs) government employment. Compared to a-year-ago February, **information** fell by 4,200 jobs (-6.2 percent), and **trade and transportation** employment fell by 4,100 jobs (-0.6 percent).

### Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia\* Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			January 2019 to February 2019		February 2018 to February 2019	
	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
<b>Virginia</b>	4,026,000	4,029,000	3,994,500	-3,000	-0.1%	+31,500	+0.8%
<b>Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA</b>	77,000	77,600	77,000	-600	-0.8%	+0	+0.0%
<b>Charlottesville MSA</b>	118,900	119,000	118,200	-100	-0.1%	+700	+0.6%
<b>Harrisonburg MSA</b>	68,700	68,800	68,100	-100	-0.1%	+600	+0.9%
<b>Lynchburg MSA</b>	105,500	106,000	104,600	-500	-0.5%	+900	+0.9%
<b>Northern Virginia MSA</b>	1,497,000	1,498,400	1,480,700	-1,400	-0.1%	+16,300	+1.1%
<b>Richmond MSA</b>	682,100	681,700	675,700	+400	+0.1%	+6,400	+0.9%
<b>Roanoke MSA</b>	162,800	162,600	161,200	+200	+0.1%	+1,600	+1.0%
<b>Staunton-Waynesboro MSA</b>	51,400	51,200	50,700	+200	+0.4%	+700	+1.4%
<b>Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA</b>	792,100	791,100	791,300	+1,000	+0.1%	+800	+0.1%
<b>Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA</b>	64,900	65,000	64,300	-100	-0.2%	+600	+0.9%

\*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

**Seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In February, six metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job losses, while employment in the other four increased. The largest absolute job loss occurred in Northern Virginia, with a decline of 1,400 jobs. The other metropolitan areas that experienced jobs losses were: Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (-600 jobs); Lynchburg (-500 jobs); and Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, and Winchester (-100 jobs each). The largest absolute job gain occurred in Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, with a gain of 1,000 jobs. Other job gains were 400 jobs in Richmond and 200 jobs each in Roanoke and Staunton-Waynesboro.

Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment increased in all metropolitan areas with the exception of Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford, which was unchanged from a year ago. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up 16,300 jobs (+1.1 percent). Richmond was ranked second, with a gain of 6,400 jobs (+0.9 percent). The other over-the-year job

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gains occurred in: Roanoke (+1,600 jobs); Lynchburg (+900 jobs); Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (+800 jobs); Charlottesville and Staunton-Waynesboro (+700 jobs each); and Harrisonburg and Winchester (+600 jobs each).

## NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate was unchanged in February at 3.2 percent, but was down 0.2 percentage point from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed decreased by 7,894, household employment increased by 51,979, and as a result, the labor force rose by 44,085. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national unadjusted rate, which was down 0.3 percentage point in February to 4.1 percent.

Compared to last month, the February **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 171,400 manufacturing production workers increased by 0.1 hour to 39.8 hours, average hourly earnings decreased by \$0.24 to \$20.03, and average weekly earnings decreased by \$7.53 to \$797.19. Compared to last February, the unadjusted workweek decreased by 0.7 hour, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.37, and average weekly earnings were higher by \$0.96.

*The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of February 10-16, 2019.*

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the February local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, April 3, 2019. The data will be available on our website, [www.VirginiaLMI.com](http://www.VirginiaLMI.com).

The March statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, April 19, 2019.

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